

Dr. William M. Mann, '05



### Dr. Wm. M. Mann, '05 Prominent Zoologist Returns From Africa

Dr. William M. Mann, '05, Director of the National Zoological Park in Washington, D. C., made an interesting trip during the past year to collect live animals for the Park. The trip was financed by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.

In the November number of "Scientific Monthly," Dr. Mann and his wife write most interestingly of their trip and, because what they say is more interesting than anything we could write, excerpts are printed verbatim.

"We sailed in February for Monrovia, via Dakar, Conakry and Freetown." George Seybold's plantation "remained our headquarters during our stay of four and a half months in the country."—"We spent a large portion of our time on five different trips into the interior, living in native villages and getting the bush natives to collect live animals.

"Because of food requirements for our caravan boys, it was necessary always to

camp in native villages, where comfortable mud huts were furnished us. All our bush trips were similar. On one we camped for a week at the base of the sacred mountain in the Gibi country but were unable to secure permission to collect at any altitude there, as the natives consider the forest holy and have never allowed any outsiders, white or black, to enter. We did collect some specimens on a similar mountain eight miles to the north from our camp.

"A side trip was made to the American Episcopal Mission at Bromley on the St. Paul River, where an employee of the Mission who was also a member of the secret Snake Society secured some specimens for us, and we fished a nearby stream.

"From Cape Mount near the Sierra Leone frontier we went into the Gola country at Bendaja, a two-days' journey, traveling by launch, dug-out canoe, on foot, and when the path permitted, in rickshas devised by the missionaries there, and made of cane chairs mounted on bicycle tires. Our camera boy, Pepe, would run alongside the ricksha and now and then stoop and grab a beetle, the forty-pound load on his head being of no inconvenience at all.

"One lot of animals was sent home in May in charge of Mr. Jennier, and spent the summer at the Firestone exposition at the World's Fair in New York.

"The collection which we brought home in August on the S. S. West Irmo of the Barber Steamship Line, after a 21-days' run from Monrovia to Norfolk, included six duiker antelope of three species, four water chevrotains, a ratel and a water civet, crested eagles and other species new to the national collection. In addition some thousands of alcoholic and dried specimens were collected for the National Museum, where they are being assorted for study."

(Stamton Military Academy)

THE KABLEGRAM — ALUMNI EDITION

12/6/1940





The Negro Boys, Suffering from the Stings of the Invading Army, Had to Run for Their Lives. The Black Regiments Killed Everything in Their Path.

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## Blind Ants That Go In For Blitzkriegs

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"MAN will have to wage a valiant fight to keep his place in the world," Dr. L. O. Howard, former chief of the United States Bureau of Entomology, stated recently. "And man's enemy is not invading hordes of human armies; his opponents will be of the insect world. Maybe the next age will determine the prowess of man against these devouring regiments."

In a radiogram from the blackest jungles of Liberia, Dr. William M. Mann, director of the National Zoological Park of the Smithsonian Institution, tells of a fierce, biting and stinging onslaught by legionary or driver ants on his



...the Negroes  
fought from the rain. The burning rain of  
the ants' bites made the... The furious files of  
black creatures crawled up their trousers' legs, under their  
shirts and streamed over their faces. Many of the boys  
were severely bitten and stung.

Dr. Mann, leading the Smithsonian-Firestone Expedition into the Liberian back country, searching for rare animals, birds and reptiles for the National collection said, "The battle in the forest depths might have been preliminary to the eventual life-and-death struggle between men and insects for world mastery as predicted by some philosophers."

When the legionary ant moves forward no creature, man included, is safe against its insatiable appetite for raw flesh, living or dead. The only defense in most cases is to abandon camp, house or other quarters and leave everything to these myriads of relentless soldiers. They also drive out all mice, rats, lizards and other pests. They have been known to devour alive the largest and most venomous snakes, especially if the snake is sluggish after a heavy meal.

They have perfect regimentation, as they march toward a certain spot like a never-ending stream. Column after column they surge onward, destroying every living thing in their path. They are like black-uniformed, cruel troops, bent on destruction. Their alignment and discipline is more perfect than that of an army of men.

Most vicious of insects, the legionary ant is absolutely blind, but whole armies move forward as a single organism, every movement systematically regulated. They obey the mysterious order of mass instinct. They never retreat, but flow always forward, dying as they march and fight.

They have no fixed habitation, but establish temporary camps wherever they can find shelter. Constantly on the march at night, they cannot endure the sun's rays. In the gloom of black night or on very cloudy days they keep going steadily. When the sun is high they rest in the crevices of rocks, holes in the ground or under roots.

An army consists of hundreds of thousands of individual ants. The fighters are the workers, ranging from the dangerous, flesh-tearing soldiers almost an inch long to the milder and less harmful forms with an astonishing aptitude for strenuous camp duties. Migrating columns carry their queen, immature young and camp followers. The queen is harmless. The males grow to approximately two inches. The soldier ants have tearing jaws that inflict painful wounds.

The sturdy, fierce, antagonistic soldiers often intertwine their bodies into the shape of an arch under which the more delicate workers perambulate and are able to carry out their bit of destruction, being fully protected. The ants bridge rivers and streams by forming links to one another. They make themselves into a ball which rolls as it floats in the water and keeps them from drowning.

The driver ants are among the most conspicuous creatures in the tropics, but little is known about them. Without a directing brain and totally blind they are the most perfectly coordinated "soldiers of nature" and move on relentlessly, obliterating all obstruction.

Since hordes of legionary ants can cause so much destruction, Dr. Howard believes that man should be on the alert against the insect world in general.

"Mankind has created conditions peculiarly favorable to certain kinds of insects," he says, "and they are multiplying in a way that would never have happened had not man not only given them a chance, but provided them with enormous quantities of food. In feeding his own rapidly increasing millions man at the same time has fed rapidly increasing billions of insects. In the United States alone the labor of a million men annually goes for naught, since the results are consumed by insects."

Dr. Howard does not believe that insects will ever gain supremacy, but it will be a fight to the finish.

Insects are more hardy. Their muscles are protected by a shell-like skeleton, while human muscles are exposed to the slightest injury. Starches and other substances required by these skeletons abound in nature while man's diet must include proteins and inorganic materials like lime and phosphates for bone growth. The insect has great advantage over humans, particularly in rapid multiplication, in size, in amazing productiveness, powers of concealment and rapidity of flight.

"Intelligence will win out," Dr. Howard adds as a more cheerful note, "but the human species must concentrate



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"Intelligence will win out," Dr. Howard adds as a more cheerful note, "but the human species must concentrate much of its God-given intelligence on its strongest rival."



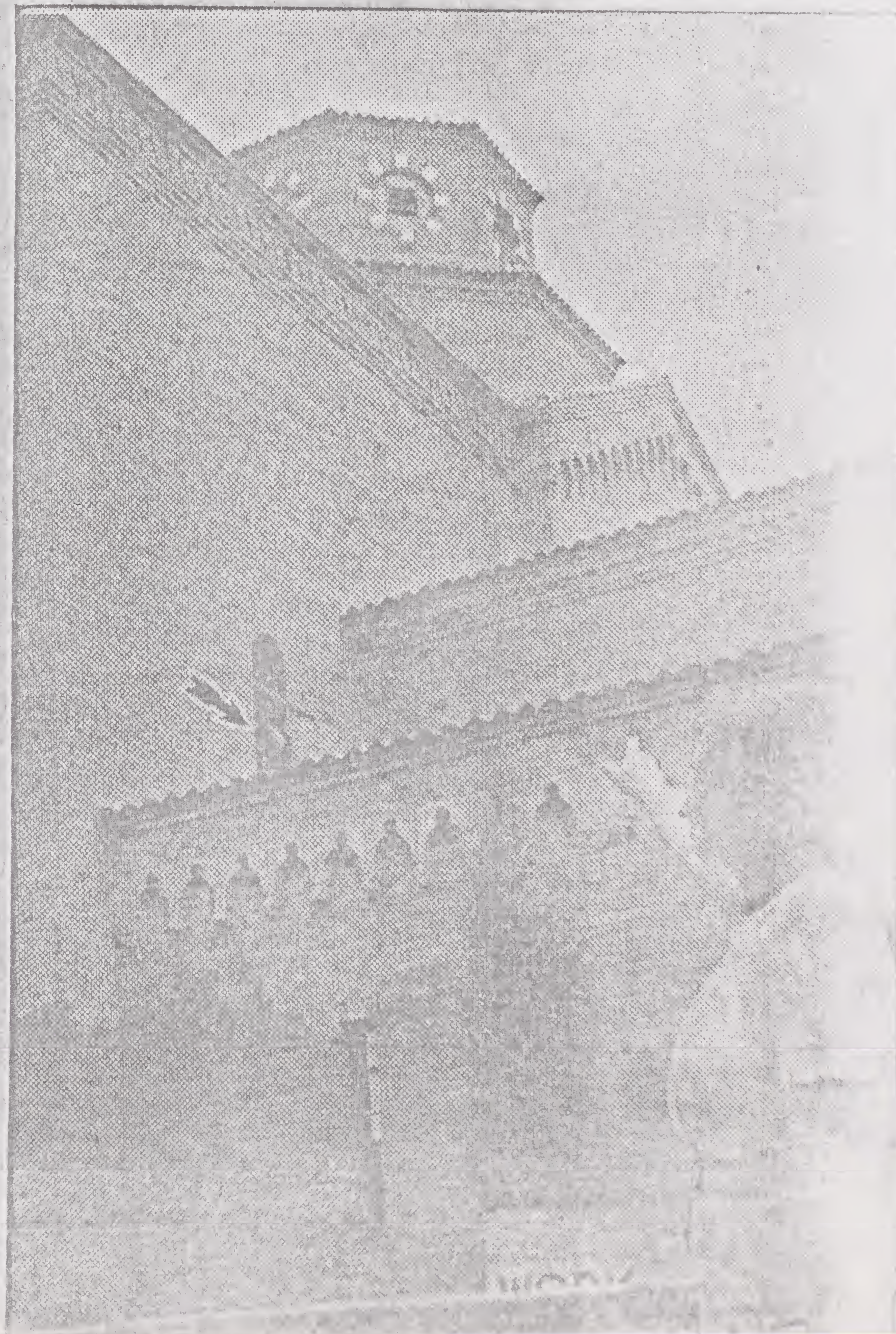
# The Evening Star

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

Society and

WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1940.

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**ONE THE NATIVES DIDN'T EAT**—This baby hippo was one of the animals brought back from West Africa by Dr. Mann today for the local Zoo. The collection was obtained in an area infrequently visited by animal dealers. According to members of the expedition, many of their col-

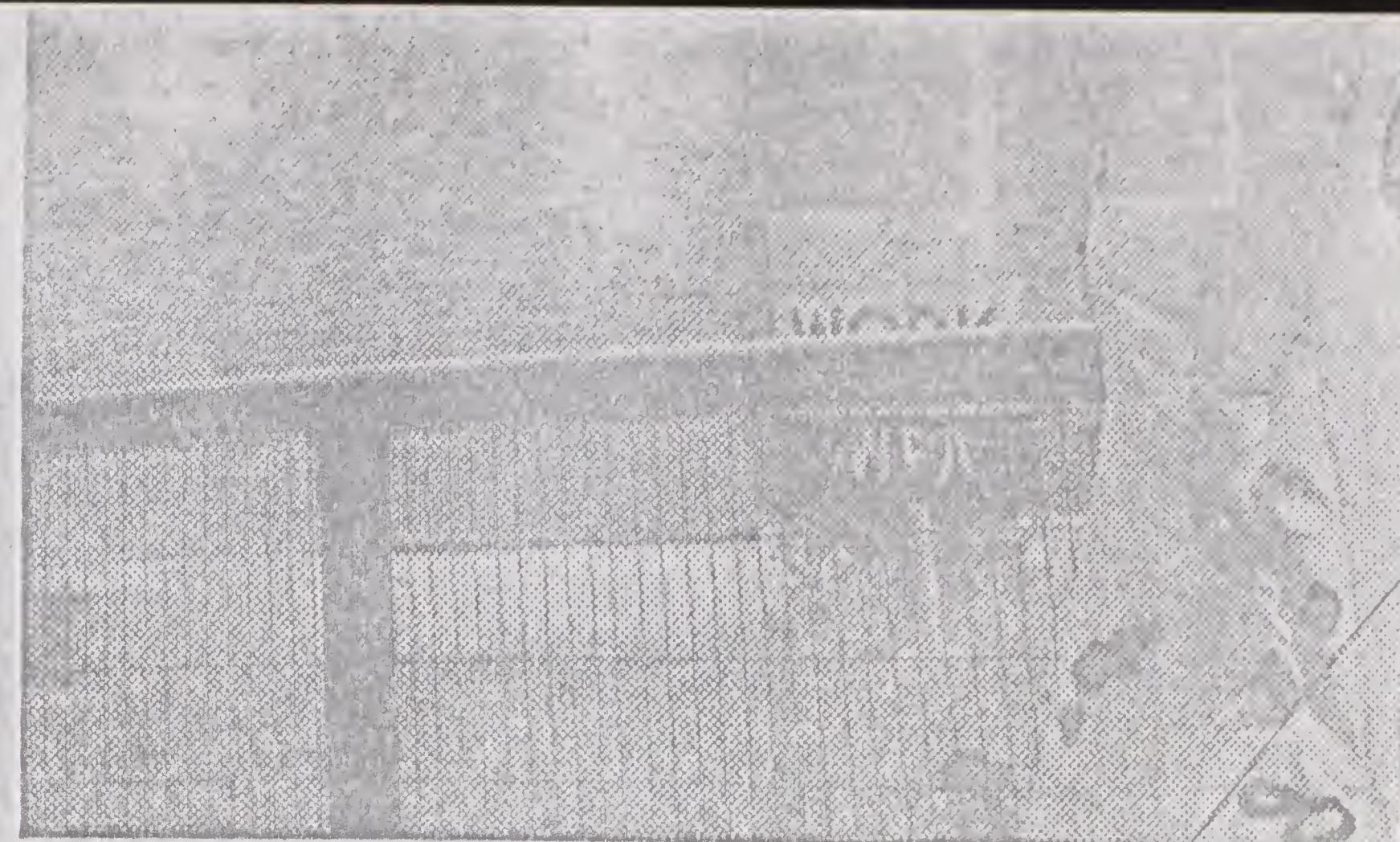


**THE NATIVES DIDN'T EAT**—This baby hippo was one of the animals brought back from West Africa by Dr. Mann today for the local Zoo. The collection was obtained in an area infrequently visited by animal dealers. According to members of the expedition, many of their collection were sacrificed to appease the appetites of hungry Liberian bush natives.

—Star Staff Photos.



Dr. Mann, recovering from an attack of malaria aggravated by his African expedition, is shown at left shaking hands with Dr. Alexander Wetmore, assistant director of the Smithsonian Institution, who met him at the Norfolk & Washington Steamboat Wharf here this morning. Mrs. Mann, sun-tanned and in excellent health after the trip, looks on.



Mrs. Malcolm Davis, wife of the keeper of the birdhouse, shown waving to her husband—who is quarantined for 15 days on the second floor of the reptile house, where he will care for the creatures newly come to live at the Zoo. Keeper Davis missed out on the excitement of the African journey—so health authorities are giving him this little adventure, and he can't get out of it.

## Dr. Mann's Animals Tempting Morsels to African Natives

### Expedition Docks Here on Norfolk Boat With Rare Specimens for Zoo

By W. H. SHIPPEN, Jr.

The voracious appetites of Liberian bush natives considerably reduced the size of the animal collection being placed on display at the Zoo today from the Smithsonian Institution-Pirestone expedition to West Africa.

While Zoo Director William M. Mann and his party arrived with several hundred rare birds, beasts and reptiles, scores of valuable specimens were sacrificed to the consuming hunger for meat of the natives who inhabit the wild back country of Liberia.

None of the creatures of the forest seemed too unappetizing for their taste—lizards, frogs, snakes, porcupines, rates as well as valuable antelope, etc. All were seized with enthusiasm and eaten with great relish, whenever the natives could escape detection by members of the expedition.

**Mann in Need of Rest.**

Dr. Mann, greatly weakened by a severe attack of tropical malaria, arrived here this morning with Mrs. Mann on the boat from Norfolk, where the expedition landed yesterday from the freighter West

leave the Reptile House during the quarantine period.

The collection was obtained from an area in West Africa infrequently visited by animal dealers. Many small mammals, monkeys and birds obtained in Liberia are rare in zoos and a few are unknown in the United States.

Part of the collection was returned a few months ago by Roy Zennier, one of two Zoo keepers who accompanied Dr. and Mrs. Mann to Liberia. The other keeper, Ralph Norris, returned with the party which arrived in Norfolk yesterday.



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#### Mann in Need of Rest.

Dr. Mann, greatly weakened by a severe attack of tropical malaria, arrived here this morning with Mrs. Mann on the boat from Norfolk, where the expedition landed yesterday from the freighter West Irmo. The expedition leader was taken ashore from the ocean freighter when it arrived at quarantine off Norfolk Monday night.

He remained overnight in Marine Hospital and yesterday left the hospital, against the advice of physicians, to help supervise the clearing of his animal cargo through the port authorities.

Dr. Mann accompanied part of the animal shipment on the boat from Norfolk last night. The remainder of the animals came by express.

Physicians were in consultation at Dr. Mann's home today to determine if he will be hospitalized. Doctors at Marine Hospital in Norfolk said he was in need of a long rest, probably best enforced in a hospital.

The expedition left Washington in February under direction of the Smithsonian Institution and the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., which has a large rubber plantation in Liberia. The Washingtonians made several safari trips into the interior of Liberia.

#### Rat Eaten by Natives.

The collectors found that the bush natives could be hired readily to join in a great hunt. Few seemed to understand, however, that such small fry as fell into their hands could not be eaten at once.

One member of the expedition said he saw three natives corner a huge rat. They threw it into a fire and let it remain "just about long enough to singe the hair." Then they pulled the rat from the fire, chopped it into three pieces without cleaning the carcass and devoured it on the spot.

On another occasion a drive by beaters had netted a beautiful antelope. After the valuable creature was captured a native, whether by design or by accident, struck it across the shoulders with a knife. The antelope died the next day, and the natives ate it.

Some of the prizes of the collection, the miniature antelope and a number of West African parrots, will not be placed on display for two weeks. During this time they will be under a rigid quarantine on the second floor of the Reptile House. Malcolm Davis, keeper of the Bird House and veteran of many previous expeditions, will be placed in quarantine to care for the birds and animals.

#### Health Precautions Taken.

The precautions were ordered by United States health authorities to guard against the importation of hoof and mouth disease by the animals or parrot fever by the birds. Mr. Davis will not be allowed to

enter, one of two Zoo keepers who accompanied Dr. and Mrs. Mann to Liberia. The other keeper, Mr. Norris, returned with the expedition which landed in Norfolk yesterday.



Post  
June 19

## Dr. Mann Learns to Make Debtors Pay Up or Blow Up

Let creditors of Dr. William M. Mann, director of the National Zoo, be forewarned that when he returns from Africa next month he'll have the magical power to make them vanish into thin air if they refuse to pay up.

And ladies, don't be getting into an argument with Mrs. Mann because she now can win any battle of words, simply by mumbling a few mystic phrases.

The Smithsonian Institution which, in collaboration with the Firestone company, sent the Manns into the Liberian jungles last February to collect new specimens for Washington's Zoo, broke the news yesterday how the good doctor and his better half were recently initiated into one of West Africa's most mysterious societies and emerged fairly dripping with black magic.

"The ceremony took place in the dense forests of the hinterland during the blackness of a jungle night," said the Smithsonian, dropping its traditionally austere rhetoric for the creepy language of a pulp thriller.

As neophytes in the Snake Society of the Maho tribe, Dr. and Mrs. Mann "were bound by the most

extreme vows never to reveal the most sacred mysteries which they were allowed to witness."

The tribe's medicine men at first received the visitors in eloquent silence—an ominous sign—but the hosts warmed up after the Manns' animal-hunting mission was explained to them by an interpreter.

What really broke the ice, though, were the brightly colored flags of the Explorers' Club and the Association of Women Geographers which Dr. and Mrs. Mann, respectively, planted in front of the medicine men's dormitory. The hosts were much impressed, insisting upon the guests telling them what the banners stood for.

Besides, the deep secret of a potent magic which will cause a thief or a repudiating debtor to curl up and die was imparted to the director of Washington's Zoo. His wife alone, however, was told what to do to win any sort of argument. She received, as a souvenir, a horn filled with "snake medicine" and was given the title of "Yangwa."

Dr. Mann wrote that the live snake used in the ritual was presented to him and he plans to bring it back to the United States late in July.



Hand May 12, 1940

## Giant Ants Rout Dr. Mann In Night Jungle Onslaught

From the Liberian jungles comes a radio dispatch from Dr. William M. Mann, director of the National Zoological Park, telling of a mid-night "blitzkrieg" by legions of huge, angry driver ants.

Attacking with lightning speed, the big black ants painfully bit nearly a score of Dr. Mann's native boys and caused the death of

several small specimens.

Dr. Mann, who did not report whether he or Mrs. Mann was bitten, said the ants assaulted his safari in a military precision that would have made Bismarck jealous.

The ants ravaged the camp unchecked, biting the defenders as they prepared boiling water to stave off the attack. Only the steaming fluid finally defeated the ants.

Dr. Mann, who is directing a joint Smithsonian-Firestone expedition, said he had arranged earthworks and other defenses against the ants.

An authority on the habits of ants, Dr. Mann said the driver variety often is two inches long.



news

may 17

1940

### STRANGE ANIMALS ON WAY TO ZOO FROM LIBERIA

Some of the strangest animals ever seen on land or sea will soon be received by the National Zoo. Dr. Mann, curator, now in Liberia has dispatched one two-foot rat and one mouse-sized squirrel, who floats.

One potto is coming, it's about the size of an American squirrel. A potto has yellow eyes that Dr. Mann says "are protruding, and perpendicular."

He supposedly lives in tree tops and utters whimpers believed by natives to be the voice of evil spirits. Dr. Mann calls it "an ancient off-shot, from which sprang the great apes and monkeys."

Most people see these things running around in dreams. Dr. Mann sees them in Liberia and sends them home.



News

May 11, 1946

# Zoo Hunters Fought by Ant Army



Drawing of driver ants attacking a snake.

The story of a fierce night jungle battle between Negro boys and hundreds of thousands of driver ants has been radioed to the Smithsonian Institution by Zoo Director William Mann who is heading the Smithsonian-Firestone hunt in far-off Liberia for animals for the World's Fair and local zoo.

Some of the boys were painfully injured in the sultry blackness of the Liberian night as the ants fought in perfect military order with discipline and alignment symbolic of the best shock troops.

The ants advance in columns, apparently directed by an uncanny intelligence but without a leader; and what makes their mass formations more amazing is that they are entirely blind and never retreat after starting for an objective. The last insect "soldier" dies as blindly as he marched and fought.

Entomologists call them the Huns of the insect world, but really know little about them. They have no fixed home and are creatures of darkness. As far as is known they can't endure the rays of the sun; by day they rest in rock crevices, holes in the ground and under roots of trees.

Their soldiers bite, sting and tear the flesh. They have been known to attack the largest and most deadly snakes and literally devour the reptile alive.

Man's best course is to break camp and flee, putting distance between him and the slowly-moving columns. However, Dr. Mann reported it was impossible to abandon the Liberian camp on which this insect army descended, so the Negro boys stood their ground, fought off the ants and were badly bitten and stung.

Full details of the battle could not be included in a brief radiogram.



Post  
May 24

## Zoo Keeper Tugs Cobra Out of Tree by Tail, Gets Gooseflesh at Sight of a Rat or Spider

### Roy Jenner Tells of African Expedition With Dr. Mann After New Specimens for D. C. Cages

Without a quailm, Roy J. Jenner will pull an 8-foot cobra by the tail in line of duty but the sight of a big rat or spider gives him the goosefleshy whim whams.

This weakness in his armor came out yesterday in the course of a cross-examining of the Zoo keeper on his experiences as an African game hunter. It was his second day back at work, after two months in Liberia as a member of Zoo Director William M. Mann's animal expedition.

Jenner thought the capture of the 8-foot black cobra, which now decorates a cage in the reptile house, by Ralph B. Norris, the only other Zoo keeper taken on the expedition, Dr. Mann and himself hardly worth discussing.

"We first saw him slithering through the bush," he said. "When he caught sight of us he turned tail. First shelter the snake spied was a hole in the ground, where a goodsized tree had been uprooted.

"All but about 2 feet of him got inside the hole. While I pulled the cobra's tail, Norris dug away so as to get to the rest of his body. Meantime, all our native boys were running in various directions."

The natives, Jenner explained, are a great help on a safari—until there is a snake to be caught. Then they suddenly vanish.

At times the Mann party had as many as 2,000 native boys serving as "beaters," surrounding an area where there was game and stirring a great commotion to drive the beasts into the clearing, where the hunters waited with nets.

"The thing I'll never forget," said the 27-year-old Zoo keeper, who previously had never been south of Virginia Beach, "were those driver ants. Everything incredible and fantastic you've ever heard about those devils is true, and more besides.

"One night we were eating supper in the menagerie on the Firestone plantation when a boy ran in yelling 'drivers!' We ran out to the deer pen, where the boy was pointing excitedly, and found one animal already dead and another literally covered with the invaders.

"Using kerosene, blow torches, brooms and anything we could lay hands on, we dispersed the ants



Post Staff Photo

ROY JENNIER HOLDING LIZARD

and tried to save the deer that was still alive. But it was useless. In an hour he was dead."

Nor will he forget, he said, the strange situation in which housewives on the vast Firestone rubber plantation, which is equipped with a golf course and electricity and all modern conveniences, have to watch where they tread when hanging up clothes lest they step on a deadly viper or cobra.

No traveler can return home without souvenirs, which accounts for the elaborate tribal headdress, three hand-carved dolls, several spears and other trinkets ornamenting the Jenner residence at 202 Summers Drive, Alexandria.

"I feel like a regular globe trotter already," he said with a laugh, "though until I went to Africa the largest boat I'd ever been aboard was a moonlight excursion steamer."



Start

July 31<sup>st</sup>

1948

## Mann Due in Norfolk From Africa Tuesday

Zoo Director William M. Mann, leader of the Smithsonian Institution-Firestone collecting expedition to Liberia, West Africa, is expected to reach Norfolk, Va., next Tuesday with the zoological specimens he obtained during five months in the jungle country.

The Zoo received a cable today that Dr. and Mrs. Mann had sailed on the return journey aboard a freighter scheduled to dock at Norfolk about August 6.

Dr. Mann was accompanied by Mrs. Mann and two Zoo keepers, one of whom returned several weeks ago with a collection of animals. Dr. Mann is expected to bring back a wide variety of specimens from a section of Africa little exploited by animal collectors. He cabled that his collection was "very nice," but did not give other details.



Post

Aug 1

1940

## Capital News In Brief

### Channel Ferry Skipper Rescues Swimmer

An attack of cramps suffered while swimming in the Washington Channel off the Harbor Police Dock yesterday almost cost the life of Roy Knapper, 36, of 324 I street northwest. He was pulled exhausted from the water by Dorsey C. Wallace, operator of the Maine Avenue-East Potomac Park Ferry Boat and was revived by harbor policemen.

Wallace and a passenger on his boat, Bradford Glascock, of 220 Twelfth street southeast, saw Knapper floundering in the water and hurried to his aid. He was taken home after treatment by an Emergency Hospital ambulance physician.

### Building Material Falls on Worker

Charles B. Austin, 42, of Arlington, Va., an employe of the Westinghouse Electrical Co., received severe head injuries yesterday when a pile of building material fell from the third floor of a house at 1660 Lanier place northwest. He was treated at Emergency Hospital.

### Zoo Director Due Tuesday in Norfolk

Dr. William M. Mann, director of National Zoological Park, expects to arrive in Norfolk next Tuesday with the wild animals he collected in West Africa, according to a radiogram received at the zoo yesterday.

With Mrs. Mann and an assistant, he sailed from Liberia in mid-July aboard the American freighter West Kebar after spending nearly five months gathering new specimens for the Washington zoological collection.

Ernest Walker, acting director, said the ship will be met by Frank Lowe, assistant head keeper, who will help Dr. Mann arrange for the animals' shipment to Washington.



Post  
July 21  
1940

## 'Bit Lonesome For Capital,' Mann Writes

**Zoological Park Head  
Due Home in August  
With Animal Cargo**

Dr. William M. Mann, director of National Zoological Park, who left Washington last February to collect specimens in Liberia, is becoming "a bit lonesome for Washington." That is what he says in a letter received yesterday by Webster P. True, chief of the Smithsonian Institution's editorial division. It was mailed June 12.

Dr. Mann wrote that the pygmy hippotamus captured by the expedition was doing nicely, as were 15 crates of birds and a number of other specimens. For the most part, however, he had little to say about what had been bagged, realizing that anything can happen before the animals are safely unloaded at the Zoo.

Latest information is that the cargo vessel West Irmo, bearing Dr. and Mrs. Mann and their specimens, sailed from Monrovia, Liberia, July 13. This could not be confirmed yesterday, however. The vessel is expected to dock in Norfolk between August 8 and 15.



July 9, 1940  
POST

## Pygmy Hippo to Become Polygamist, New Mate Captured by Expedition

The Zoo's male pygmy hippopotamus is soon to become a polygamist, though he doesn't know it yet.

A female pygmy hippo has been captured by the Smithsonian-Freestone expedition to Liberia, led by Zoo Director William M. Mann, the Smithsonian Institution announced yesterday. With rare crocodiles, monkeys, midget antelope, mouse deer, colorful jungle birds and other species, the hippo will be loaded aboard the steamer West Irmo in a few days for the long voyage to the United States.

Washington's Zoo now has a pair of pygmy hippopotami, parents of

a 5-month-old female named Bimbo. The hippo captured in a pit trap by Liberian natives will be introduced to the trio on exhibition here with the keepers hopeful the addition will not break up what is now a happy family.

The newly captured pygmy hippo is said to weigh, including the crate, 700 pounds. She was carried 40 miles through the jungle to the expedition camp by natives.

Dr. Mann will bring the animal collection directly to Washington from Norfolk, with the exception of a few which will have to be quarantined for a time before going on exhibition.

According to the Smithsonian Institution's announcement, the West Irmo was scheduled to arrive at Norfolk July 20, but it was learned, on checking the information, that the vessel will not dock before July 30. Her departure is uncertain because of war conditions.



Mann  
June-July 19th  
1940

## Jungle Teaches Doc Mann 'Sacred Secret of Bounce'

A little trick that will come in mighty handy back here in the land of week-end house parties and tourist relatives has been picked up by Washington's Zoo Director and Mrs. William M. Mann in darkest Africa, where they are recruiting colonists for the Rock Creek Park reservation.

The secret is how to get rid of an unwelcome guest, and the recipe is to put a certain leaf in the fire which is heating his bath water. Dr. Mann gives it away in a letter to the Smithsonian Institution describing his and Mrs. Mann's initiation into the Snake Society of the Maho tribe of West Africa.

'Tis a weird tale he tells, of a three-hour ceremony in the blackness of a jungle night, with a horned viper in a stellar role and signs and passwords changing hands. The Manns had gained the natives' confidence by hoisting the bright banners of the Explorers Club and the Association of Women Geographers and then letting the aborigines in on the "secrets" of this Occidental symbolism.

Next day, Doc Mann wrote, they were taken to a remote clearing in the forest by the worshipful master of the cult and his right-hand man, and were

taught the medicinal and magic values of 36 plants and the trick of causing an enemy or a delinquent debtor to wither and die. As a special concession to the only woman ever initiated into the society, the worshipful master gave Mrs. Mann an antelope horn filled with sacred snake medicine and instructed her in a bit of magic which will give her the edge in any argument.

What a fine pair of hosts the Manns could be when they got back, with that passel of equipment!



Post  
May 22  
1940

## Zoo's Who in the Zoo

# *We Get a Look at a Water Civet (No Plumbers Needed), at Zoo*

"Isn't he a beauty!"

Object of the affections of Ernest G. Walker, acting director of National Zoological Park, was a brown, furry creature about the size of a raccoon which was attacking a platter containing a mixture of sliced bananas, hamburger, fish and carrots.

"That," Walker announced proudly, "is a water civet."



THE WATER CIVET, BROWN AND AGILE, WITH AN APPETITE FOR ANYTHING

The Zoo's acting director is a small mammal fan and this specimen, which arrived yesterday from Liberia via New York, especially struck his fancy because of its rarity. This is the first civet ever seen in Washington and Walker believes it may be the first ever bought into the United States.

Collected by the Smithsonian-Firestone expedition to West Africa, led by Zoo Director William M. Mann, the unusual animal was one of approximately 60 new arrivals that went on exhibition in their permanent quarters yesterday.



## Doc Mann <sup>News</sup> 6/24/40 Sees Mystery 'Devil Dance'

Old Doc Mann, our own Zoo keeper, is having the time of his life deep in Liberia's jungles, according to expedition reports he is sending back to the Smithsonian Institution here.

He rides in state in a canopy-covered hammock carried on the heads of four jungle boys, is triumphantly received in the native villages, and even is allowed to witness many of the bush country tribes' sacred rites.

### SEES 'DEVIL DANCE'

One of these was the mysterious "devil dance."

"As we were approaching a jungle village at dusk, our party was stopped and told that all of us, including the native hammock boys, would have to retire to huts and remain secluded for the night because the bush devil was due to pass thru that night," Dr. Mann writes.

"No person not a member of the 'devil's' own secret society, the natives said, could look upon him without dreadful consequences. Native boys scattered in terror to huts provided for them and did not venture to look out until daylight."

### SUBSTITUTE PERFORMS

The next day a substitute "devil" was produced to allay Dr. Mann's curiosity. For the benefit of Dr. Mann's party, the substitute performed the same sort of dance which the real devil is supposed to stage.

"He was clad in what looked like miles and miles of raffia," says Dr. Mann, "and he resembled a moving haystack with a tremendous mask on his head. He did an acrobatic dance, changing his height two or three times from about three to eight feet by suddenly shooting up and elevating his mask. All these dances were accompanied by a most harmonious chanting.

"The natives cannot understand why we want live wild animals for the National Zoo. They say that the animals are good for only one purpose—to be killed and eaten."



Times-Herald  
June 24 1948

## Dr. Mann Tells of Black Magic Encountered on Zoo Safari

Black magic and Hollywood hit tunes deep in the African bush country is the weird mixture reported by the Smithsonian-Firestone Expedition on a safari into Liberia for animals for the National Zoo.

Dr. William M. Mann, director of the Zoo and leader of the expedition, has written the Smithsonian Institution of his encounter with voodocism.

As the caravan approached a jungle village at dusk, Dr. Mann reported, the natives warned the

travelers they would have to hide in huts and remain secluded for the night. The "devil" was to pass through the night, and not even a member of the "devil's" own secret society could look upon him without the most terrible consequences.

### 'Devil' Runs Wild

Native boys in the caravan scattered to the huts in terror. None of the party ventured out into the darkness. But the next day a substitute devil performed the devil's dance for the party.

"He was clad in what looked like miles and miles of raffia," Dr. Mann wrote, "and he resembled a moving haystack with a tremendous mask on his head. He did an acrobatic dance, changing his height two or three times from about three to eight feet by suddenly springing up and elevating his mask. All of these dances were accompanied by a most harmonious chanting."

### Porters Sing 'Heigh-Ho'

When Dr. Mann's caravan isn't being interrupted by devil dancing it swings along through the jungles and plains to the strains of the "Heigh-Ho" chorus from Walt Disney's movie, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Dr. Mann taught the native porters the tune and they mix it in with the chants which they sing from morning to night while on the march.

Although the natives apparently go for Hollywood tunes, they can't understand why live animals are wanted for the Zoo. They say, reports Dr. Mann, that animals are good only to be killed and eaten.



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MRS. POLLARD JEFFRIES, A VISITOR FROM GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., FOCUSES ON A "HINGED" TORTOISE

The African newcomers included 25 box tortoises, whose upper shell has a queer "hinge" that produces a rudder-like effect; a falcon that is so new in these parts Walker and his aids don't know what to call it; 20 deadly cobras, vipers and pythons, and several miscellaneous creatures of lesser distinctions.

"Falconry enthusiasts will be wanting to borrow the new falcons, see if they don't," said Walker. "The one that's so strange to us may possibly be a newly discovered species. The other two resemble the goshawk of North America but are smaller."

Among the reptiles introduced to their new homes yesterday were eight rhinoceros vipers, so called be-



MONKEY-EATING EAGLE, ANOTHER ZOO-COMER

cause of hornlike protuberances above the eyes, four black cobras which blow their venom into the victim's eyes, three dangerous gaboon vipers, two young pythons; a broad-nosed crocodile, the 25 tortoises and several palm vipers and lizards.



June 19, 1940  
STAR

## Strange Snake Cult Initiates Dr. and Mrs. Mann

Once again Dr. William M. Mann has joined a lodge of jungle savages with secret and mysterious rites.

On this occasion, however, the Washington Zoo director was accompanied by his wife, and the initiation centered about a theme somewhat less disturbing than cannibalism.

Snakes, rather than cannibals, played leading roles when Dr. and Mrs. Mann were ushered into the Serpent Society of the Maho tribe of the Liberian bush in West Africa, where Dr. Mann is collecting animals.

Word of the honor conferred on the leader of the Smithsonian-Firestone expedition has just been received at the Smithsonian Institution. While Dr. and Mrs. Mann were properly impressed with the rituals, their friends here are inclined to think they joined the lodge for business reasons.

Members of the Serpent Society, in that particular part of Liberia have access to information and specimen sources not available to less favored individuals. The explorers arrived at the jungle village after five days of jogging through the bush in palm-shaded hammocks slung from poles balanced on the heads of four native boys.

The native medicine men were not at all hospitable.

The visitors, whose presence was resented, were received in awe-inspiring silence. An interpreter, however, managed to break the ice by explaining the reason for the visit—the collection of live animals not intended for eating purposes. This aroused the curiosity of the na-

tives, to whom all animals are just so much "beef" for the cook pots.

Too, the medicine men are intrigued by two flags which the visitors posted before their hut—the banners of the Explorers' Club and the Women Geographers. Dr. Mann, through his interpreter, explained about the societies and somehow managed to get across the impression that they were pretty exclusive outfits.

The medicine men were impressed. They held a solemn pow wow and concluded that the visitors were sufficiently distinguished to be members of their own society. Dr. and Mrs. Mann received a formal invitation to join the dread cult. The snake doctors who brought the invitation carried poisonous horned vipers and antelope horns full of secret "snake medicine."

Dr. Mann, no novice at such ceremonies, accepted the invitation with some trepidation. In 1914, while collecting insects in the Fiji Islands on a Harvard fellowship, Dr. Mann was initiated into a secret order of cannibal warriors. He went through the whole rite, and never revealed any of the secrets, although he balked at being tattooed with the lodge emblem of a blue frigate bird, because the dye was extracted from a decomposed fish.

Writing of his more recent African experience, Dr. Mann said:

"It proved to be a real ordeal. We were initiated at night and in a weird three-hour ceremony we were told the passwords, signs and the symbolism of the various fetishes. Then, the next morning we were taken into a secret clearing in the forest. We passed through five palm-leaf portals to get to the meet-

ing place. There the gli, or worshipful master, and his right-hand man explained to us the value, medicinal and magic, of 36 different plants. We learned how to protect ourselves from snake bite, how to cure snake bite and how to get rid of an unwelcome guest by putting a certain leaf in the fire that is heating his bath water."

From this point on the instructions became secret indeed. Dr. and Mrs. Mann were told of a potent magic which will cause a thief, or a debtor who will not pay, to wither and die. This presumably is a variation of the dreaded magic which once was world-wide and still plays a part in voodoo rites.

To Mrs. Mann alone, as the only woman initiate into the society, was explained an even more useful bit of magic. If it works she will be able to win any kind of an argument. She was given the title of "Yangwa" and presented with the horn filled with the sacred snake medicine. Dr. Mann was presented

with the live snakes used in the ceremony and added them to his collection which he will bring back to the United States.

The party is expected to sail for home late this month.



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1940

### **D. C. Expedition Battles Blitzkrieg By Ants in Africa**

A cablegram relating an attack on his Liberian expedition's camp by an army of hundreds of thousands of large driver ants, has been received from Dr. William M. Mann by the Smithsonian Institution here.

Dr. Mann is leading an expedition into the back country of Liberia in search of rare birds, animals and reptiles. He reported that the insects descended on the camp at night. A pitched battle then raged between the ants and a squad of Negro boys.

Although the only defense against the ants is flight, it was said that the expedition's camp was of a type that could not be abandoned. The ants travel as though directed by a single mind and have an insatiable appetite for any flesh, the Institute reported.



## U. S. Expedition Seeks Fauna In Liberian Wilds

AKRON (Ohio), May 9.—(INS)—A Smithsonian Institution-Firestone expedition is traveling in Liberia in hopes of securing rare wild animals and a complete collection of fauna.

The expedition is sponsored by the Firestone Company, and is under the supervision of Dr. William M. Mann, director of the National Zoological Park in Washington. Considerable time is to be spent on the huge Firestone rubber plantation.

Among the animals which Dr. Mann is anxious to bring back to the National Zoo, a branch of the Smithsonian, are pigmy elephants, pigmy hippopotamuses, flying squirrels, and the larger servals which are distinguished by their long legs and large tufted ears.

Accompanying Dr. Mann is his wife, Lucille Quarry Mann, also an authority on wild animal life.

## An Expedition Is Attacked by Ants

WASHINGTON, May 11 (UP)—Dr. William M. Mann, director of the National Zoological Park, reported today from the remote back country of Liberia that his porter train had suffered severe casualties in a night attack by a huge army of ferocious driver ants.

Dr. Mann, leading an expedition into Liberian jungles in search of rare animals, birds and reptiles, radioed that hundreds of thousands of ants, one to two inches long, swept into the camp in perfect columns, swarmed over the Negro sentries, biting and stringing them seriously.

## Tough on Animal Hunter; Natives Wanted to Eat 'Em

WASHINGTON, June 20 (AP). The biggest difficulty Dr. William M. Mann, director of Washington's National Zoo, encountered while gathering animals and snakes in Liberia was keeping the native helpers from eating them.

It took a week of talking to convince the safari that the expedition actually wanted to bring the animals back alive.

### ZOOLOGY

## Rabbit-Sized Antelopes Headed for National Zoo

WITH a 700-pound pigmy hippopotamus as star of the passenger list, a rare and distinguished gathering of West African jungle animals is taking ship in Liberia, scheduled to arrive at Norfolk, Virginia, about July 20. Obtained by Dr. William M. Mann, director of the National Zoological Park at Washington, the collection will show America some species of Liberia's wild life seldom seen outside that country.

Included in the collection, which was obtained with aid of hundreds of natives, are antelopes no bigger than rabbits, rare crocodiles, big and little parrots, and several crates of monkeys.

*Science News Letter, July 20, 1940*

### ZOOLOGY

## Strange Beast and Birds Sent Back from Liberia

PIGMY hippopotamuses, a huge eagle that preys on jungle monkeys, an armored anteater and a group of monitor lizards are among the strange beasts and birds sent back from Liberia, on the west coast of Africa, by Dr. William M. Mann, leader of the Smithsonian-Firestone expedition. Not the first of refugees from Africa, it is hoped.

*Science News Letter, June 1, 1940*

From Liberia comes news of a blitzkrieg, unheralded in headlines. It describes the battle between squads of negro boys (now with Dr. William M. Mann, head of the Smithsonian-Firestone Expedition) and a vast army of big, blind ants with a great hunger for raw flesh. According to the report the ants move along in orderly columns, never giving way, devouring and fighting as they go. If the flesh-eating insects of the world were to combine in an aggressive alliance, they could conquer the world, scientists tell us.



UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM  
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY  
ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY  
NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK

ALL CORRESPONDENCE  
SHOULD BE ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

*Washington, U.S.A.*

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART  
NATIONAL COLLECTION OF FINE ARTS  
FREER GALLERY OF ART  
INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES  
DIVISION OF RADIATION AND  
ORGANISMS

February 13, 1940.

Dear Madam:

You are hereby designated as a Collaborator of the Smithsonian Institution during the Smithsonian-Firestone Expedition to Liberia for the purpose of making collections for the National Zoological Park.

Very truly yours,

*Edg Abbott*

Secretary.

Mrs. William M. Mann,  
2801 Adams Mill Road,  
Washington, D. C.





9.- Packing up in the morning. To the left, hammock and hammock frame; the right, a native basket fashioned to hold the movie camera and tripod. The small box on top contains a rhinoceros viper as insurance against the porter dropping the load carelessly!







Lucile Mann





8.- Packing up in the morning was a nerve-wracking performance. In the foreground can be seen the native-made cages for animals.







ENLARGE MENT BY



EASTMAN KODAK STORES

Lucile Mann





Where the trail is narrow  
the hammock is carried  
by two boys instead of the  
customary four

*Photos by W.M. & L.Q. Mann*

A dug-out canoe waiting  
to take us over to Dobli's Island









Hammock Caravan







Dobbi Island





Native carpenter makes us a very handsome but impractical bird cage.



There are no roads through the jungle, and hammock travel is common all through Liberia.

*Photos by Wm. L. D. Mann*







Native carpenter  
builds us a bird cage







Hammock travel

EASTMAN KODAK STORES



ENLARGEMENT

Lucile Mann





Girls who have spent three years in the Grigri bush are returned to their parents, with elaborate head-dresses and clay-painted faces

*Photos by  
W. M. & L. Q. Mann*

At Bellyella, a five-day walk from the Firestone plantation







Grigri fields  
at Belllyella

Mr. Wm. W. W.





At Bellyella, a five-day walk from the end of the road

Photos. by  
W. M. S. O. Mearns







Woman & child  
at Bellyella





Photos by  
W. H. & L. Q.  
Mann

At Bendaja we made friends with Boima Quae, a famous old Gola chief; the Mohammedan priest of the village, and Fermetah, the chief's favorite wife







Mohammedan priest

W. M. - M. -

Chief Baïma Qual

L. Q. M. -

S'ematah (head wife)

ENLARGEMENT BY



EASTMAN KODAK STORES

W. M. - M. -





Outside our house at Bendaja, the chief's grandsons pay us a call

*Photos by  
W. H. S. G. K. K. K.*







Neighbors at Bendaya

many will

ENLARGEMENT BY



EASTMAN KODAK STORES





71- Making cages of rattan and palm fiber for the transportation of animals.







EASTMAN KODAK STORES



ENLARGEMENT BY

*Luise Mann*